

cancelled without prejudice in the Preliminary Amendment of October 9, 1998, and any rejection of these claims is moot.

Applicants request acknowledgment of a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 from Amin et al., Application No. 08/672,769, Patent No. 5,875,187 ("Amin"). This priority claim was submitted when the subject application was filed. In view of this priority claim, the subject application claims the benefit of the June 28, 1996 filing date of Amin and applicants request withdrawal of all rejections based on Tracy et al., U.S. Patent 6,014,089 ("Tracy"). Tracy is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 08/740,361 that has an October 28, 1996 filing date. Therefore, Tracy is not prior art with respect to the present application. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Tracy and Werner, U.S. Patent 4,943,973.

Claims 5-9 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Burton, U.S. Patent 5,572,347. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 5-9 without prejudice.

In view of the above, claims 14-21 are properly allowable over the cited references and action to such end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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